

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo, CAPES *Haiti*, BA, MA *Besançon*,
PhD *Lille III*, DEA *Antilles-Guyane*, *Palmes académiques (Chev.)*
– Head of Department

WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

In August, Dr. Claudette Williams resumed her duties returning from a two-year fellowship leave. Mrs. Doreen Preston went on Sabbatical Leave and Dr. Paulette Ramsay on fellowship leave. Two members of Staff resigned without notice at the beginning of the second semester; alternative arrangements were put in place quickly to minimize the impact on the programme. Two new foreign assistants, one under the Colombia ICETEX-UWI agreement and the other under the UWI/Spain MOU,



joined the department in January. The arrival of a professor of Arabic from the Egyptian university Al Azar as well as that of a Portuguese lecturer from Brazil were deferred because of delays in work permit issuance. The Head of Department participated in meetings about the establishment of a Confucius Institute at the U.W.I. as well as in preliminary discussions about co-operation/exchange with Senegal in the field of higher education. Dr. Villoria co-edited a special issue of *Revista Iberoamericana* in collaboration with J. Cedeño. Dr. Ramsay was featured among the UWI scholars selected for the special Issue of *The Pelican*, “60 Under 60.” Two MPhil students, Mr. Lattibeaudiere and Ms. Cousins were successfully up-graded to the Ph. D. programme.

Teaching and Learning.

The French Section of the Department was reviewed in January and the Reviewers’ report received by the end of April. An Action Plan was drafted and will be finalized by next academic year. The Spanish Section submitted its Action Plan in response to the 2007 Review of the Section accompanied by the Department’s strategic plan to be included in the

University 2007-2012 Strategic work plan. The Department held two retreats, one at the end of each semester. The retreats allowed for a review of teaching and exchange about best practices (listening comprehension and using resources available on the internet, e.g. YouTube). The issue of motivation and autonomous learning was also a topic for discussion at the end of year retreat.

Evaluation of lecturers and courses.

The Department continues to be highly rated for its teaching and courses. The mean average was 4.06 for both semesters.

Publication output per capita.

This year saw an exceptional output by regular staff (6) in the lecturer category and above, with 10 refereed articles, 2 encyclopedia entries and 4 non-refereed publications (3 per capita).

Student-centered activities.

The Department received various donations of books and teaching material from the Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Masashiro Obata and the French Embassy. The Latin American Women's Club made its annual donation to assist students participating in the Colombia Exchange programme. The Chinese students gave an excellent performance of poetry and songs at the Chinese New Year Reception organised at the Pegasus Hotel on February 4, 2008 by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. On February 27-28, 2008, the Department hosted the 9th Inter-Campus Modern Language Festival at the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts. On March 13, 2008, Misses Iijima and Takahashi organized a 'Japan Day' at the Undercroft in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan and the support of the Japanese Club, showcasing various aspects of Japanese Culture. The Department represented the University and the University Press at *Touch of France*, the annual French fair organized by the *Alliance Française de la Jamaïque* at the Hilton Hotel (March 14-16, 2008). The Spanish Club staged successfully its annual *Noche Latina* on March 20, 2008 at the Philip Sherlock Centre for the Creative Arts. Fifteen students from the S30B.-Business Spanish course went on an internship programme in Yangua, Veracruz in Mexico. Another group of students went to Colombia from June 18 to July 19 while Mona hosted a group of Colombian students as part of the annual UWI-Universidad del Norte exchange programme.

International Relations. A M.O.U. was signed in December 2007 between the University and the Brazilian Government. Under the agreement, the Brazilian government will fund a lecturer in Portuguese for two years at the Mona Campus.

Distinguished visitors.

Mr. Jean Marc Césaire from *Cine Woule* in Guadeloupe did a guest lecture for the French students on November 14, 2007.

Mr. Ignacio Sánchez Taboada, the Deputy Chief of Mission and Head of Cultural Affairs of the Embassy of Spain, on March 6, 2008.

Obituary

On January 24, 2008, the Department received news of the passing of Professor Richard Burton; Prof. Burton taught in the Department of French and German from 1970-1972 and was living in France since his retirement from the University of Sussex.

Outreach

Dr. F. Cévaër was elected on the Executive Committee of the *Alliance Française de la Jamaïque* at the May Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Mr. G. Lubeth presented on Martinican and Guadeloupean Politics and their relationship with the French central government for the French CAPE students at Ardenne High School (October, 2007). He also assisted with preparation of the CAPE oral examination (November 5, 2007). Mr. Lubeth represented the University at two meetings held in Guadeloupe in December 14-15, 2008. One meeting was convened by the General Council of Guadeloupe to discuss a project for the creation of a Caribbean Media Magazine and the signature of a MOU between the U.W.I. and the General Council of Guadeloupe. The other was convened by the International Bureau of the UAG to examine the development of exchange programmes with the U.W.I.

Dr. M.-J. Nzengou-Tayo attended the 19th annual conference of the Haitian Studies Association at Lynn University, Boca Raton (October 4-6, 2007). She chaired a panel entitled “Religion and Transnationalism.” She also chaired the election committee of the Association responsible for the 2007 elections to the Board of Directors.

On September 27, 2007, Dr. Nzengou-Tayo addressed the Spanish and French teachers at a general meeting and workshop held at the Caenwood Centre and organized by the Core Curriculum Unit. On November 22, 2007, she presented at a training seminar on the teaching of literature organized by the Jamaica Association of French Teachers at Shortwood Teachers' College. She organized and facilitated a workshop on Appraisal for WIGUT on April 5, 2008. On April 25, 2008, she conducted a revision seminar at the Alliance Française for High School students sitting CAPE French Literature Examination.

Dr P. Ramsay conducted various workshops for high schools: one in January 2008 at Jamaica College on "Rescuing Young Men" and another one in April 2008 at Ardenne High School on her acclaimed novel *Aunt Jen*.

PAPERS PRESENTED

- **Caroline Cousins**, "Heteroglossia and Fluid Subjectivities in Caribbean Women's Writing" for an up-grading to PhD seminar on November 23, 2007.
- **Françoise Cévaër**, "Sur les traces de Chester Himes: intertextualité et identité transnationale dans le polar francophone" (In the footsteps of Chester Himes: Intertextuality and Transnational Identity in Francophone Detective Fiction), annual meeting of the Rocky Mountains Modern Language Association at Calgary, October 4-6, 2007.
- "Enquêtes occultistes: les policiers du Sud face au surnaturel," (Investigating the Occult: Policemen Confronting the Supernatural in Countries of the South), Annual conference of the International Francophone Studies Council (CIEF). July 2007.
- **Lina Maria Gomez**, chapter of her MA Thesis on "Learner Motivation" at a staff/student seminar on November 29, 2007.
- **Warrick Lattibeaudiere**, "The Chameleon Woman vs. the Matador: November 21, 2007: Towards Changing Female Identity Politics in Confiant's Mamzelle Libellule, Chamoiseau's Texaco and Montero's Del rojo de su sombra."

- **Gilles Lubeth** “Construction de systèmes universitaires, UWI-UAG: projet d’enseignement et projet politique.” (Building Academic Systems, the U.W.I. and the UA.G: Teaching Project and Policy). Graduate Students’ Seminar at the University of Bordeaux IV, April 16-19, 2008.
- **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo** “Foreign Language Needs at the Tertiary Level.” and “The ICT Industry: Implications for Language Learning and Proficiency,” UTech Symposium on Language Learning, April 17, 2008.
- **Paulette Ramsay** “Masculinity, Language and Power in the Afro - Mexican Corrido” at the College Language Association Conference, College of Charleston, South Carolina, on April 11, 2008.
- “Using Writing Across the Curriculum Strategies to Enhance Performance in Mathematics of a Group of Grade 7 Students”, WAC (Writing Across the Curriculum) 2008 Conference, University of Texas, Austin, May 25, 2008.
- **Ileana Sanz**, “African legacy in contemporary Cuban literature” Bicentenary Conference organised by the Institute of Jamaica and the Society for Caribbean Research, Europe (SOCARE), Montego Bay, December 2007.
- “Cultural genesis in the countries of the Wider Caribbean”, Annual conference of the Caribbean Studies Association in San Andrés, May 26, 2008
- “Mestizaje and Hybridity in Cuban literature” to the graduate students and staff of London Metropolitan University. June 24.
- “Interrogating Mestizaje from a Caribbean perspective: its representation in the literary discourse,” 31st annual conference of the Society for Caribbean Studies (UK) in Edinburgh. July 4.
- **Maria-Tereza Villoria Nolla**, “Colombia’s Drug trafficking subculture and its literary representation.” Urban Culture Conference, UWI, Mona, September 27-29, 2007.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

- * **Cévaër, Françoise.** “Rumpus in Harlem-sur-Seine: Francophone Crime Fiction Hosting Chester Himes”, *The International Journal of the Humanities*, Volume 5, issue 12, 2008. <http://ijh.cgpublisher.com/product/pub.26/prod.1275> .
- * **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.** “La Montagne ensorcelée: la promesse d’une œuvre.” Frantz-Antoine Leconte (ed.). *Jacques Roumain au Pluriel*. Chap. 4. New York: New Hemisphere Books. Pp. 40-55.
- * ———. “Kamau Brathwaite and the Haitian Boat People: Dream Haiti or the Nightmare of the Caribbean Intellectual.” In Annie Paul (ed.) *Caribbean Culture: Soundings on Kamau Brathwaite*. Kingston: UWI Press, 2007. pp. 176-186.
- * ———. “Ana Lydia Vega and Haiti: Between Fascination and Rejection.” *Journal of Haitian Studies*. Vol. 13, No. 1, Spring. pp. 42-63
- * ———. “Les écrivaines haïtiennes et la Révolution de Saint-Domingue: *La danse sur le volcan* de Marie Vieux-Chauvet et *La deuxième mort de Toussaint Louverture* de Fabienne Pasquet.” Proceedings of the 2004 Berlin Conference on Haitian Independence. Léon-François Hoffmann, Frauke Gewecke and Ulrich Fleischmann (Eds). *Haiti 1804: Lumières et ténèbres, Impact et résonances d’une révolution*. Berlin: Bibliotheca Ibero-Americana, Vervuert. Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, 2008. pp. 201-214.
- * ———. « La traduction des textes littéraires antillais : quels enjeux ? » Proceedings of the University of Liege Colloquium « La Traduction, et après? Ethique et Profession » Liège, Belgium, April 26-28, 2007. <http://www.l3.ulg.ac.be/colloquetraduction2007/actes/intervention%20MJNT.doc> (14 pages)
- * ———. Encyclopedia entry. “Alexis, Jacques Stéphen (1922-1961)”, *Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture*, ed. by Carol Boyce-Davies. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Vol. 1, p. 73.

- * ———. Encyclopedia entry. “Vieux Chauvet, Marie.” Encyclopedia of the African Diaspora: Origins, Experiences, and Culture, ed. by Carol Boyce-Davies. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Vol. 3, pp. 955-56.
- * **Paulette Ramsay**. “The Use of Jamaican Literature in the Jamaican English Language Class: A Rationale and a Model.” *Caribbean Journal of Education*. Volume 29, No. 2 September 2007, pp. 243 -289.
- * ———. “Palisadoes Homecoming,” *Celebrating Caribbean Women Writers*, BIM . Volume 1, No 2 (2008), pp. 23-29.
- * **Villoria-Nolla, Maite** and Cedeño J., “Una cultura para las masas” *Revista Iberoamericana*, 2008, 74, 223, pp. 391-404.
- * ———. “Havana Transfigured: The return of the repressed other in Padua’s Mascaras”, *The International Journal of Humanities*, V.5, No.19, 2007, pp. 41-48.

Non-refereed

- * **Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo**. Interview with Marjory Adenet-Jouvet. “La Caraïbe: carrefour des littératures,” *France-Antilles Magazine*. “Rencontre” October 13-19, 2007, p. 26.
- * **Caroline Cousins**. Review of “Aub-Buscher, Gertrud and Ormerod Noakes Beverley. *The Francophone Caribbean Today: Literature, Language and Culture*. Barbados: U of the West Indies P, 2003. Paper. 260p.” in *Callaloo*. Vol. 30 No. 3, pp. 939-943. Summer, 2007.
- * **Villoria-Nolla, Maite** and Cedeño J. “Introduction” *Revista Iberoamericana*, 74, 223 Pittsburgh University Press (2008). pp. 333-344.

Income Generation

UGC Fund	Income		Expenditures
Sale of Manuals (UGC Fund)	158,530.00	Over expenditure of UGC Controllables	126,806.62

Commercial Accounts	Income		Expenditures
Donation received from the French Embassy	103,092.78	Inter-Campus Theatre Festival	274,263.25
Donation received from Vice-Chancellor's Office	51,737.50		
Donation received from the Latin American Women's Club	45,000.00	Three Awards from last year's donation (Colombian Exchange)	40,000.00
Consultation + Other Departmental Fund	45,543.12		
Courses offered in the Language Laboratory	173,241.59	Salaries, Administrative Expenses	367,022.80
Summer Courses (F111, J10B, S311)	865,921.00	Salaries and Travel Expenses (Immersion Programmes)	1,133,323.49
Total	\$1,443,065.99		1,941,416.16

PUBLIC SERVICE

Françoise Cévaer.

- Member of the Jamaica Association of French Teachers.
- Member of the Executive Committee, *Alliance Française de la Jamaïque*

Marie-José Nzengou-Tayo.

- Member of the Haitian Studies Association.
- Member of the Jamaica Association of French Teachers.
- Member of the Caribbean Studies Association.
- Secretary, the International Shotokan Karate Association of Jamaica (formerly Japan Karate Association of Jamaica).
- Ex-Officio member of the Executive Committee of the *Alliance Française de la Jamaïque* (UWI Representative)
- Peer Reviewer for the *Journal of Haitian Studies*, *MaComère*, *Caribbean Quarterly*, *Callaloo*.

- Internal Assessor, Quality Assurance, Review of French, at Cave Hill.

Doreen Preston

- Assistant Chief Examiner French CAPE, CXC.

Paulette Ramsay

- Chief Examiner Spanish CSEC, CXC.
- Writing Across the Curriculum Project (UWI).

CATEGORIES OF STUDENTS

Undergraduate:

Registration: 1899

Preliminary Courses

French 174
Spanish 399

Hospitality & Tourism Management

French 50
Spanish 202

Non-BA Programme

Chinese 31
Japanese 128

BA Programme

French 163
Spanish 752

Graduating Students

French 4
Spanish 17

First Class Honours

Jo-Lane Anderson-Figueroa	–	French & Spanish
Emlynn Victoria Francis	–	Spanish
Noelle Yvette Hoskins	–	French & Spanish
Annekah Julian Mason	–	Spanish

Postgraduate:

Registration: 13

MPhil French	1
MPhil Spanish	3
MPhil French/Spanish	2
PhD French	1
PhD French/Spanish	1
PhD Spanish	1

MA in Translation Studies 5 (Spanish 3, French 2)

Prizes Awarded:

French:

Level I William Mailer Prize:	Jeanette Fitzpatrick
Level II Prix Jambec:	Noelle Hoskins
Level III Prix Gertrud Buscher:	Jamar Davis
Level III French Embassy Prize for overall achievement over the three years:	Jamar Davis
William Mailer Scholarship:	Not awarded
Bridget Jones Memorial Award:	Not awarded

Spanish

Gabriel Coulthard Prize:	Annekah Mason
Paul Davis Prize:	Ruthan Maitland
Latin American Women's Club Award:	Karleen Lawrence Ajanique Dennis